

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 9-11 are withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement.

The missing comma has been added to claim 6.

Claim 1 is amended to include the requirement that the catalyst composition comprise a physical mixture as separate particles of catalyst A and catalyst B. Support for this amendment may be found on page 3, line 12 of the instant specification.

The instant cracking catalyst composition comprises a unique mixture of separate particles of catalyst A and catalyst B, with catalyst B having a higher average pore volume in the pore diameter range of 20-200 Å than catalyst A in the same pore diameter range. As so convincingly shown in the examples of the instant text, this unique mixture of catalysts achieves vanadium scavenging properties far superior to a conventional catalyst such as catalyst A by itself, with most of the vanadium being retained on catalyst B. As illustrated in Example 1, catalyst A is typically zeolite in a silica and kaolin matrix.

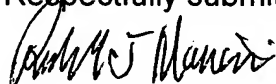
The catalyst composition of the present invention may be readily distinguished from a composition such as that of Wachter (US 5,221,648), cited by the Examiner, which is simply zeolite in a matrix, like catalyst A of the instant claims. Wachter gives no hint to a physical mixture of separate catalyst particles, nor, of course, to any inkling of what might be achieved by such mixture. Wachter is clearly irrelevant to the patentability of the instant claims.

Applicants are appreciative of indication by the Examiner that claims 2, 4-5 and 7-8 are allowable if rewritten in independent form, but believe that claims 1, 3 and 6 are also allowable. The catalyst composition of the instant claims that

comprises a unique mixture of separate particles of distinct catalysts is readily distinguishable from that of the prior art that does not teach distinct particles. The catalyst composition of the present invention exhibits surprising properties that would preclude a finding of obviousness over the prior art.

An early allowance of pending claims 1-10 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph J. Mancini".

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